APPENDIX D

Agency Correspondence



HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY GARRISON

1. 1. 18 10 SCHREIDER STREET

FORT DETRICK, MD 21702-5000

September 20, 2002

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF Office of Safety and Environment

Dr. Mamie A. Parker Regional Director United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service 300 Westgate Center Drive Hadley, MA 01035-9589

Dear Dr. Parker:

The U.S. Army is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the implementation of the Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) program at Fort Detrick, Maryland. Fort Detrick is situated immediately to the northwest of the City of Frederick, in Frederick County, Maryland and comprises of 1,143 acres, as shown in Figure 1 enclosed with this letter.

The purpose of the EA is to discuss the potential effects on environmental resources associated with the RCI program, which will privatize the renovation, construction and management of housing facilities at Fort Detrick. The sizes, configurations, safety, and condition of existing installation housing units are substantially below the Army's standards of acceptability. Under the proposed action, family housing would be brought up to acceptable standards through renovation or demolition of old units and construction of new units. To enable exercise of ownership and control over the housing, the Army would convey all present family housing structures to a single private Development Entity. The Army would also lease land within housing areas to the Development Entity for a period of 50 years.

Family housing currently consists of 191 housing units occupying approximately 21.5 acres on the west side of the installation's cantonment area. An additional 26 acres of open fields adjacent to existing housing would be leased to the Development Entity to accommodate proposed construction of approximately 160 new housing units, as shown in Figure 2. The initial development plan would be implemented over a 5-year period beginning in 2003. To prevent a housing shortage, existing housing units would not be demolished or rehabilitated until after new units were completed.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, an evaluation of the potential impacts (both positive and negative) associated with implementing this action is required. We are requesting your further input concerning this action with regard to any biological concerns such as fish and wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species, or other species under your cognizance.

Your prompt consideration and response is greatly appreciated. If you need additional information please call me at (301) 619-3152. Thank you for your cooperation.

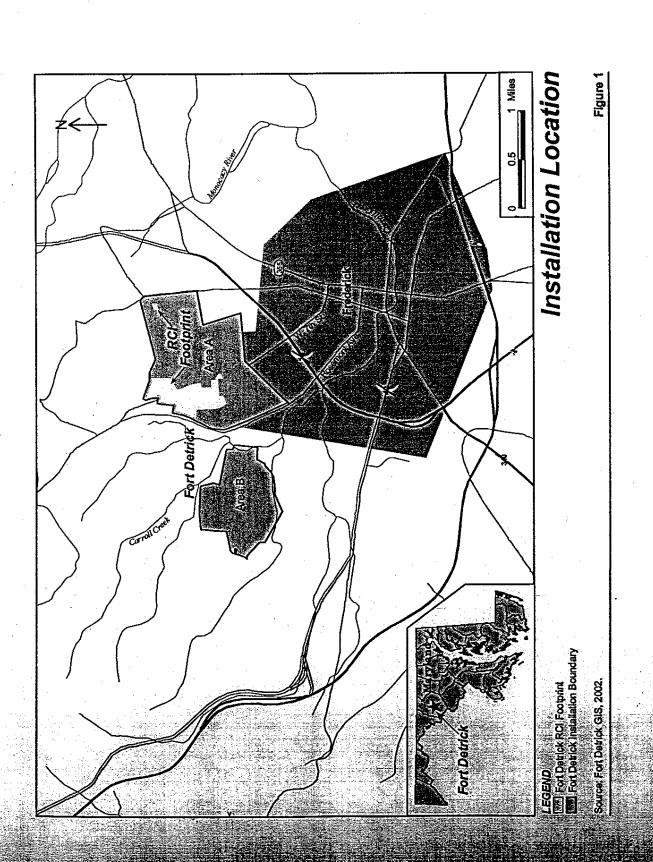
Sincerely,

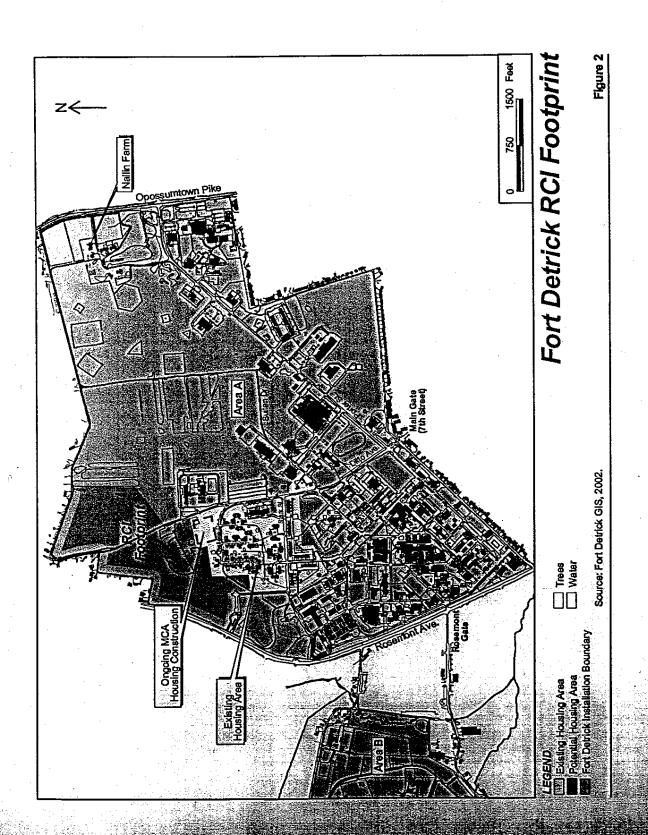
Rod Sheffer

Chief, Environmental Branch

2 Encls

1. Figure







United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Chesapeake Bay Field Office 177 Admiral Cochrane Drive Annapolis, MD 21401

October 21, 2002

Mr. Rod Sheffer, USAG 1500 Porter Street MCHD-SIE Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5000

RE: September 20, 2002 letter requesting input regarding biological concerns in preparation for an Environmental Assessment for the implementation of the Residential Communities Initiative program at Fort Detrick, Maryland

Dear Mr. Sheffer:

Upon review of the above referenced letter by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), the following comments are submitted in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*) and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

The document introduces the Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) program, which will result in the construction of 160 new housing units on 26 acres of open fields on Fort Detrick in Frederick County, Maryland. The fields are located adjacent to 191 existing housing units which will be renovated as part of the RCI. The U.S. Army is currently preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify potential effects to natural resources resulting from the program.

In an effort to preserve open space and associated wildlife habitat, we recommend that Fort Detrick consider clustering development in such a way as to limit destruction to the open field habitat that currently exists on the site. Additionally, we recommend that Bayscaping be incorporated into both the new development and the renovations proposed as part of the RCI. The Service has drafted a document entitled "Conservation Landscaping for Federal Facilities: Guide to Beneficial Landscaping in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed,"which can be obtained by contacting the Chesapeake Bay Field Office. This document contains helpful information concerning planting designs that benefit wildlife and the environment which can be used to replace lawns and traditional ornamental plantings.

Except for occasional transient individuals, no Federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species under our jurisdiction are known to exist in the project impact area.

Therefore, no Biological Assessment or further Section 7 Consultation pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 is required with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment during the initial stages of this EA. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Murphy at (410) 573-4521.

Sincerely,

John P. Wolflin Supervisor



HEADOUARTERS: US ARMY GARRISON 810 SCHREIDER STREET FORT DETRICK, MD 21702-5000 September 20, 2002

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF Office of Safety and Environment

W. Michael McCabe Regional Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Dear Mr. McCabe:

The U.S. Army is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the implementation of the Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) program at Fort Detrick, Maryland. Fort Detrick is situated immediately to the northwest of the City of Frederick, in Frederick County, Maryland and comprises of 1,143 acres, as shown in Figure 1 enclosed with this letter.

The purpose of the EA is to discuss the potential effects on environmental resources associated with the RCI program, which will privatize the renovation, construction and management of housing facilities at Fort Detrick. The sizes, configurations, safety, and condition of existing installation housing units are substantially below the Army's standards of acceptability. Under the proposed action, family housing would be brought up to acceptable standards through renovation or demolition of old units and construction of new units. To enable exercise of ownership and control over the housing, the Army would convey all present family housing structures to a single private Development Entity. The Army would also lease land within housing areas to the Development Entity for a period of 50 years.

Family housing currently consists of 191 housing units occupying approximately 21.5 acres on the west side of the installation's cantonment area. An additional 26 acres of open fields adjacent to existing housing would be leased to the Development Entity to accommodate proposed construction of approximately 160 new housing units, as shown in Figure 2. The initial development plan would be implemented over a 5-year period beginning in 2003. To prevent a housing shortage, existing housing units would not be demolished or rehabilitated until after new units were completed.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, an evaluation of the potential impacts (both positive and negative) associated with implementing this action is required. We are requesting your further input concerning this action with regard to any biological concerns such as fish and wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species, or other species under your cognizance.

may have about the project by October 20, 2002. Please address all comments to: Mr. Rod Sheffer, USAG, 1500 Porter Street, MCHD-SIE, Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5000. Your comments/concerns will be addressed in the Environmental Assessment that will be available for public comment in 2003.

Your prompt consideration and response is greatly appreciated. If you need additional information please call me at (301) 619-3152. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Rod Sheffer

Chief, Environmental Branch

2 Encls

1. Figure 1



ATTENTION OF
Office of Safety and Environment

Maryland Department of the Environment Technical and Regulatory Services Administration 2500 Broening Highway Baltimore, MD 21224

To whom it may concern:

The U.S. Army is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the implementation of the Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) program at Fort Detrick, Maryland. Fort Detrick is situated immediately to the northwest of the City of Frederick, in Frederick County, Maryland and comprises of 1,143 acres, as shown in Figure 1 enclosed with this letter.

The purpose of the EA is to discuss the potential effects on environmental resources associated with the RCI program, which will privatize the renovation, construction and management of housing facilities at Fort Detrick. The sizes, configurations, safety, and condition of existing installation housing units are substantially below the Army's standards of acceptability. Under the proposed action, family housing would be brought up to acceptable standards through renovation or demolition of old units and construction of new units. To enable exercise of ownership and control over the housing, the Army would convey all present family housing structures to a single private Development Entity. The Army would also lease land within housing areas to the Development Entity for a period of 50 years.

Family housing currently consists of 191 housing units occupying approximately 21.5 acres on the west side of the installation's cantonment area. An additional 26 acres of open fields adjacent to existing housing would be leased to the Development Entity to accommodate proposed construction of approximately 160 new housing units, as shown in Figure 2. The initial development plan would be implemented over a 5-year period beginning in 2003. To prevent a housing shortage, existing housing units would not be demolished or rehabilitated until after new units were completed.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, an evaluation of the potential impacts (both positive and negative) associated with implementing this action is required. We are requesting your further input concerning this action with regard to any biological concerns such as fish and wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species, or other species under your cognizance.

Your prompt consideration and response is greatly appreciated. If you need additional information please call me at (301) 619-3152. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Rod Sheffer

Chief, Environmental Branch

2 Encls

- 1. Figure 1
- 2. Figure 2



HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY GARRISON 810 SCHREIDER STREET FORT DETRICK, MD 21702-5000 September 20, 2002

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF Office of Safety and Environment

Sarah J. Taylor-Rogers
Secretary
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401-2397

Dear Mrs. Taylor-Rogers:

The U.S. Army is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the implementation of the Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) program at Fort Detrick, Maryland. Fort Detrick is situated immediately to the northwest of the City of Frederick, in Frederick County, Maryland and comprises of 1,143 acres, as shown in Figure 1 enclosed with this letter.

The purpose of the EA is to discuss the potential effects on environmental resources associated with the RCI program, which will privatize the renovation, construction and management of housing facilities at Fort Detrick. The sizes, configurations, safety, and condition of existing installation housing units are substantially below the Army's standards of acceptability. Under the proposed action, family housing would be brought up to acceptable standards through renovation or demolition of old units and construction of new units. To enable exercise of ownership and control over the housing, the Army would convey all present family housing structures to a single private Development Entity. The Army would also lease land within housing areas to the Development Entity for a period of 50 years.

Family housing currently consists of 191 housing units occupying approximately 21.5 acres on the west side of the installation's cantonment area. An additional 26 acres of open fields adjacent to existing housing would be leased to the Development Entity to accommodate proposed construction of approximately 160 new housing units, as shown in Figure 2. The initial development plan would be implemented over a 5-year period beginning in 2003. To prevent a housing shortage, existing housing units would not be demolished or rehabilitated until after new units were completed.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, an evaluation of the potential impacts (both positive and negative) associated with implementing this action is required.

We are requesting your further input concerning this action with regard to any biological

concerns such as fish and wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species, or other species under your cognizance.

Your prompt consideration and response is greatly appreciated. If you need additional information please call me at (301) 619-3152. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Rod Sheffer

Chief, Environmental Branch

2 Encls

1. Figure 1



Parris N. Glendening

Governor

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

J. Charles Fox
Secretary

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Kathleen Kennedy-Townsend

Lt. Governor

Annapolis, Maryland 21401
October 31, 2002

Karen M. White Deputy Secretary

Mr. Rod Sheffer Department of the Army Headquarters, U.S. Army Garrison 810 Schreider Street Fort Frederick MD 21702-5000

Dear Mr. Sheffer:

This letter is in response to your letter of request, dated September 20, 2002, for Department of Natural Resources review and comment on the proposed Residential Communities Initiative Program at Fort Detrick, Frederick County, Maryland. It is our understanding that the U.S. Army is preparing an Environmental Assessment for implementation of this program.

k dentek bija pagwa pambi jit telub jer dan balik

Fort Detrick is located within the drainage area of Carroll Creek (Middle Potomac River Drainage Area). Carroll Creek and all tributaries are classified as Use III-P waters (Natural Trout and Public Water Supply). Generally, no instream work is permitted in Use III streams during the period of October 1 through April 30, inclusive, during any year.

There are no anadromous fish species documented in Carroll Creek. Additionally, the Department's Fisheries Service has not documented any natural trout populations in Carroll Creek. However, Table IV-2 (attached) lists resident fish species documented in the Middle Potomac River Basin by our Fisheries Service. Many of these species could potentially be found in streams near your project site. These species should be adequately protected by the instream work prohibition period mentioned above, sediment and erosion control methods, and other Best Management Practices typically used for the protection of stream resources.

Our Wildlife and Heritage Service has no records for Federal or State rare, threatened or endangered species within the project site. This statement should not be interpreted as meaning that no rare, threatened or endangered species are present. Such species could be present but have not been documented because an adequate survey has not been conducted or because survey results have not been reported to the Department. However, if the site consists of abandoned fields or is currently being pastured, it may contain habitat for grassland breeding birds. Such birds include Upland Sandpiper, Eastern Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow and American Kestrel. As such, it is an important parcel because on the declining status of this group of species. Birds that require grassland for breeding are rapidly disappearing from the State as well as the region. For further technical assistance regarding conservation of grassland breeding birds, please contact Mr. Ed Thompson of our Wildlife and Heritage Service at 814-634-5972.

Mr. Rod Sheffer October 31, 2002 Page 2

Since it is unclear as to the existence or location of any sensitive areas on the project site, we encourage that this project be considered for design techniques that minimize impacts to any wetlands and conserve existing vegetation. If streams and/or steep slopes occur in the project area, we encourage their protection through vegetated buffers. If this project is planned for a flood prone area, we suggest locating structures as to minimize any impact flooding would have.

Opportunities should be explored to minimize the total impervious area of the project and, if possible, provide stormwater treatment using landscaping and other practices that avoid routing runoff directly into the roadway and the stormwater conveyance system. The goal of stormwater management should be to mimic existing hydrology, thereby retaining water on site. This principle should apply to newly built structures, as well as any rehabilitation or reconstruction of existing housing units.

The Department suggests that parking lot designs minimize overall imperviousness by limiting spaces, minimizing space dimensions, incorporating efficient parking lanes, and using pervious materials wherever possible. Also, wherever possible, we recommend providing stormwater treatment for parking lot runoff using bio-retention areas, filter strips, and/or practices that can be integrated into required landscaping areas. The Environmental Design Program at the Department can be contacted at 410-260-8827 as a resource for environmentally sensitive stormwater management techniques.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, you may contact me at 410-260-8331.

Sincerely,

Ray C. Dent amon, J. Ray C. Dintaman, Jr., Director Environmental Review Unit

RCD Attachment

Table IV-2. Fish Species Collected in the Middle Potomac River Basin, 1974-1984.

Salmonidae Salvelinus fontinalis (Mitchill) Prook trout Salmo trutta Linnaeus Brown trout Rainbow trout Salmo gairdneri Richardson Cyprinidae Stoneroller Campostoma anamalum (Rafinesque) Blacknose dace Rhinichthys <u>atratulus</u> (Hermann) Rhinichthys cataractae (Valenciennes) Longnose dace Cutlips minnow Exoglossum maxillingua (Lesueur) Creek chub Semotilus atromaculatus (Mitchill) River chub Nocomis micropogon (Cope) Fallfish Semotilus corporalis (Mitchill) Rosyside dace Clinostomus funduloides Girard Common shiner Notropis cornutus (Mitchill) Bluntnose minnow <u>Pimiplahes notatus</u> (Rafinesque) * Peal dace Semotilus margarita (Cope) Catostomidae Northern hogsucker Hypentelium nigricans (Lesueur) White sucker Catostomus commersoni (Lacepede) Ictaluridae Margined madtom Noturus insignis (Richarson) Brown bullhead Ictalurus nebulosus (Lesueur) Cottidae Mottled sculpin Cottus bairdi Girard Cent.rarchidae Bluegill sunfish Lepomis macrochirus (Rafinesque) Smallmouth bass Micropterus dolomieui Lacepede largemouth bass Micropterus salmoides Lacepede Rock bass Ambloplites rupestris (Rafinesque) Pumpkinseed sunfish <u>Lepomis gibbosus</u> (Linnaeus) Longear sunfish Lepomis megalotis (Rafinesque) Tessellated darter Etheostoma olmstedi Storer Greenside darter Etheostoma blennioides Rafinesque Fantail darter flabellare Rafinesque Etheostoma Anguillidae

American eel

Anguilla rostrata (Lesueur)

^{*} Additional fish species collected, 1980-1984.



HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY GARRISON 810 SCHREIDER STREET FORT DETRICK, MD 21702-5000 September 20, 2002

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF Office of Safety and Environment

Mr. Rodney J. Little State Historic Preservation Officer Maryland Historical Trust 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032

Dear Mr. Little:

The U.S. Army is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the implementation of the Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) program at Fort Detrick, Maryland. Fort Detrick is situated immediately to the northwest of the City of Frederick, in Frederick County, Maryland and comprises of 1,143 acres, as shown in Figure 1 enclosed with this letter.

The purpose of the EA is to discuss the potential effects on environmental resources associated with the RCI program, which will privatize the renovation, construction and management of housing facilities at Fort Detrick. The sizes, configurations, safety, and condition of existing installation housing units are substantially below the Army's standards of acceptability. Under the proposed action, family housing would be brought up to acceptable standards through renovation or demolition of old units and construction of new units. To enable exercise of ownership and control over the housing, the Army would convey all present family housing structures to a single private Development Entity. The Army would also lease land within housing areas to the Development Entity for a period of 50 years.

Family housing currently consists of 191 housing units occupying approximately 53 acres on the west side of the installation's cantonment area. An additional 64 acres of open fields adjacent to existing housing would be leased to the Development Entity to accommodate proposed construction of approximately 160 new housing units, as shown in Figure 2. The initial development plan would be implemented over a 5-year period beginning in 2003. To prevent a housing shortage, existing housing units would not be demolished or rehabilitated until after new units were completed.

Fort Detrick proposes to convey all existing family housing units to the Development Entity and grant a 50-year lease of land under all those buildings. Fort Detrick would also lease additional acreage for the Development Entity's use to construct new housing and to operate ancillary supporting facilities. The Development Entity would operate and maintain for 50 years all existing and new family housing and ancillary supporting facilities, including associated parking lots and sidewalks, in accordance with the quality standards established in the Community Development Management Plan.

The Army would convey this property with encumbrances, notices, and requirements obligating the Development Entity to certain actions. Negotiated terms of transfer or conveyance may result in requirements for the Development Entity to maintain the status quo of historic buildings or archaeological sites or may impose a requirement for consultation with the SHPO prior to any actions affecting such resources. The lease would also include a clause placing prohibitions on removing or disturbing, or causing or permitting to be removed or disturbed, any historical, archaeological, architectural, or other cultural artifacts, relics, remains, or objects of antiquity. In the even such items would be discovered, the Development Entity would be required to immediately notify the Installation Commander or his/her designated representative and protect the site and the material from further disturbance until the Installation Commander or designated representative give clearance to proceed.

Two resources that are eligible or potentially eligible for the National Register are located in the project area:

- 1. Nallin Farm, including the farmhouse (Building 1652) and associated outbuildings, is listed on the National Register. The structures are located in the northeastern portion of the installation. Demolition is not planned for these structures.
- 2. The Stonewall Jackson Beall historic archaeological site (18FR683) is located at the corner of Ditto Avenue and Sultan Drive. Phase I archaeological work was done at the site, and it was recommended as potentially eligible.

Four of the housing units were built before 1950, including Nallin Farm. Of the installation's entire family housing inventory, 115 were constructed before 1960.

The EA will be prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality. In accordance with NEPA, an evaluation of the potential environmental impacts (both positive and negative) associated with implementing the Army's proposed action on the existing resources at Fort Detrick and within the study area is required. The EA will assess effects of the transfer of housing, and the leasing of underlying property. No property transfer will occur until SHPO coordination is completed. The No Action alternative will also be identified and evaluated, as required.

Under the process established by NEPA, the Army will provide for participation by members of the public and private sectors to provide input to the Army concerning potential environmental issues associated with implementing the proposed action. Participation includes response to this letter of notification, and comments that you or other interested parties or stakeholders may submit regarding the Draft EA.

Your prompt consideration and response is greatly appreciated. If you need additional information please call me at (301) 619-3152. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Rod Sheffer

Chief, Environmental Branch

2 Encls

1. Figure 1



Maryland
Department of
Housing and
Community
Development

Division of Historical and Cultural Programs

100 Community Place Crownsville, Maryland 21032

410-514-7600 1-800-756-0119 Fax: 410-987-4071 Maryland Relay for the Deaf: 711 or 1-800-735-2258

http://www.dhcd.state.md.us

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. Governor

Victor L. Hoskins Secretary

Marge Wolf

Deputy Secretary

January 17, 2003

Mr. Rod Sheffer Chief, Environmental Branch U.S. Army Garrison 1500 Porter Street MCHD-SIE Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5000

Re: Environmental Assessment (EA) for Implementation of the Residential

Communities (RCI) Program

Fort Detrick, Frederick County, MD (Section 106 Review - ARMY)

Dear Mr. Sheffer:

Thank you for your recent notification regarding the above-referenced project, for review and comment. The Maryland Historical Trust (Trust) has reviewed the information provided in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. We are writing to provide our comments with regard to effects on historic properties.

We understand that the U.S. Army is proposing to privatize the renovation, construction, and management of housing facilities at Fort Detrick. The Fort Detrick RCI footprint for potential and existing housing has been surveyed to identify its historic and archeological resources. The majority of the RCI footprint does not contain any National Register eligible historic properties, with two exceptions. The RCI area includes the Nallin Farm (Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties [MIHP] number F-3-43 and associated archeological site 18FR684) and the Springhouse & Bank Barn (MIHP# F-3-44), which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, along with the garage and dairy building which are eligible for listing. In addition, the RCI area contains the Stonewall Jackson Beall historic archeological site (18FR683) which may be National Register eligible but requires Phase II archeological evaluation to determine its significance.

The transfer, lease, or sale of property out of federal ownership or control without adequate and legally enforceable restrictions or conditions to ensure long-term preservation of the property's historic significance would constitute an adverse effect on historic properties [36 CFR 800.5 (2)(vii)]. To avoid and reduce the potential for adverse effects from the transfer, the Trust endorses placing protective historic preservation easements on the historic properties at the time of their transfer to private management. Use of the Trust's standard easement for the Nallin Farm property and a preservation convenant for site 18FR683 would result in a no adverse effect determination for the undertaking. If the historic properties were reverted back to federal control, the easements would be lifted. No further consultation with the Trust is required for those portions of the RCI area that do not contain any historic properties.



Mr. Rod Sheffer January 17, 2002 Page 2

To facilitate the development of the easement for Nallin Farm, we have enclosed copies of the Trust's procedures for developing an easement, the format for the title certificate, and a sample of our standard deed of easement for your reference. We are currently negotiating a similar easement with the Army to cover the transfer of historic properties at Fort Meade. We look forward to continued consultation with the Army to satisfactorily resolve the historic preservation issues associated with this undertaking.

Thank you for providing us this opportunity to comment. If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Beth Cole (for archeology) at 410-514-7631 or Ms. Tania Georgiou Tully (for the historic built environment) at 410-514-7636. We appreciate your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

J. Rodney Little
Director/State Historic
Preservation Officer

JRL/TGT/EJC 200203733 Enclosures

Elizabeth J. Boyland (Fort Detrick).

Elizabeth Tune (MHT)

